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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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ANALYSIS OF THE CORE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SUMMIT AND POLICY MEASURES TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/92

Note by the Secretariat

Elements for possible inclusion in a text to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee

Addendum

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Annex

ELEMENTS MENTIONED FOR THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

I. ELEMENTS MENTIONED FOR THE DRAFT DECLARATION

1. Under common challenges justifying the Summit, the following were cited:

National action and international cooperation are required to address social development problems;

A number of social problems and social tensions are threatening the world community;

Need for a new social contract or social pact; need for a renewed vision of social progress;

Conviction that actions and remedies are possible;

All actors are concerned and have a role to play;

Dialogue and cooperation are the avenues for development;

Persistence of poverty, aggravation of inequities and inequalities;

The risk of dual society and a dual international community;

Effects of globalization; rapid social changes;

Social and moral crisis in a number of societies.

2. The following goals, principles and policies (a world social development strategy) were mentioned:

Development is an all-inclusive process;

The eradication of poverty, full employment, a greater social integration, are attainable goals through national actions and international cooperation;

Social development as a condition for peace and security;

Social development as a condition for economic development;

Need for sustainable growth;

Importance of population issues and demographic trends;

Human dignity as a fundamental objective for development;

Human security as a central aspect of international cooperation;

The relation between the three core issues and human rights, including the right to development;

The central role of women and their status as a yardstick to assess social development;

The key role of education, training, and access to knowledge;

The meeting of fundamental needs (food, shelter, health);

Access to information and technology; role and responsibility of image makers and media;

The identification of priority areas;

The setting of targets at the national, regional and perhaps international level, notably for poverty eradication.

3. Under commitment follow-up and responsibilities, the following were noted:

Need for a code of ethics; importance of moral and spiritual dimensions of human beings and societies;

Recognition that there is no blueprint ready-made solutions, comprehensive theories, for development and social progress;

Situation of least developed countries, and of Africa;

Situation in countries in transition (economies, social systems and values);

Need to restore trust in institutions including government; deleterious effects of corruption at all levels of society;

Central role and responsibilities of national Governments;

Need to build on successful policies and experience of national Governments;

Need for diversified policies and measures;

Differences in national conditions requiring differentiated responses;

Role of individuals as citizens;

Role of community organizations, civil society;

International cooperation for enabling national responses;

Need for mobilization of all resources (human, institutional) at national level;

Poor and unemployed represent a waste of resources;

Economic and social responsibilities of transnational corporations and other large institutions;

Mobilization of resources for social development through the United Nations system and overall coherence of United Nations system efforts;

Role of financial institutions;

Need for an efficient monitoring procedure.

II. ELEMENTS MENTIONED FOR A DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

4. The thrust of the programme of action is based on:

The importance of people-centred and inclusive approaches to development;

The interdependence of social and economic aspects of development;

The need for development to be genuine and sustainable;

The need to focus on underlying causes of problems; attempts should be made to prevent rather than alleviate problems;

The centrality of human rights;

The need for specific attention to women and children;

The importance of empowerment;

The need to concentrate on people and countries which are most disadvantaged or vulnerable.

5. It was also suggested that what is needed is a new concept of "human security". The traditional concept of security, focused primarily on the security of States and based mainly on military components, should be replaced by a broader concept that includes social, economic, environmental, cultural, religious and ethical aspects. In this definition, the personal security of individuals and communities, based on sufficient income, education, health and housing, should be given priority. Human security should be understood to be based on solidarity within societies; there should be no expression of fear of the poor, and social development must be considered a right of people and not simply a means to security.

6. The need to create a "world culture for social development" was suggested. Such a culture would be participatory in nature, transmit information to all its

members, and devote resources previously assigned to military purposes to investment in human resources.

7. It was suggested that poverty should be considered a challenge to all mankind, not just a problem of poor individuals or countries. There is a need for harmony among developed and developing countries to recognize their responsibility to the poor in the form of timely, sensitive and strategic support.

A. An enabling environment

8. A prerequisite for social development is social peace through social partnership.

9. An enabling environment should contain certain elements:

Growth with social justice;

A favourable international trade and financial environment;

The need for debt reduction;

The importance of national macroeconomic policies;

Social dimension of macroeconomic adjustments;

Discussion of taxation systems to enhance productive, long-term investments;

The need to reconsider public expenditure priorities;

The need to revise national accounting procedures to more properly reflect the social and environmental costs of economic decisions;

The need for reliable and standardized indicators;

The need to pay special attention to the dimensions of the problems in Africa and the least developed countries.

10. An enabling environment should not be confined to the United Nations system but should also involve the international financial and trade institutions and other intergovernmental organizations.

11. An enabling environment is not just economic. Social and economic development must be sustainable, and the relationship between national strategies and the global environment must be considered.

B. The alleviation and reduction of poverty

12. In addressing the question of poverty, the long-term goal is the elimination of poverty in all countries; the alleviation and reduction of poverty are steps towards that long-term goal.

13. While programmes for alleviating and reducing poverty are undertaken primarily at the local and national level, they depend on a favourable international environment, including access to international trade and capital markets, fair prices for commodities and debt relief.

14. It must be recognized that the elimination of poverty is an ethical imperative.

15. Education and training are key conditions for the reduction of poverty. Efforts to reduce poverty need to focus on the root causes of poverty.

16. The development of a national anti-poverty programme must be a multidisciplinary integrated approach, including mobilization of public support, developing the legislative framework and policy direction, building institutions and capacity throughout civil society, and establishing practical measures to increase opportunities.

17. Economic reform and structural adjustment programmes must include measures to ensure that the poor are not harmed by the economic and social disruptions caused.

18. The programme of action should take into account the different levels of poverty that exist in different countries.

19. Particular attention must be given to the least developed countries. The programme of action should take into account the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa, presented by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development.

20. The specific problems of countries in transition must also be addressed.

1. Mobilizing local, national, regional and international efforts to reduce poverty and promote equity

Improving distribution of wealth and income by various means, including taxation and public spending policies;

Improving income-generating opportunities for poor people, particularly in the private sector through local savings and investment;

Empowering the poor, including through encouragement and support of self-help programmes;

Social emergency funds and social investment funds;

Ensuring participation of the poor in the planning and implementation of anti-poverty programmes, including through decentralization of public services;

Prioritizing and targeting specific groups, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, including through regional and sectoral programmes;

Protecting the rights of the poor as full citizens, including the right to democratic participation, and the right to organize and defend their interests;

Mobilization of public support and political will for anti-poverty programmes.

2. Strengthening basic social structures and services

Supporting the family as the basic social unit and primary source of social security;

Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of social services, including strengthening of social institutions and programme management;

Ensuring the widest possible availability of information on social services;

Eradicating illiteracy;

Ensuring universal access to quality education and training;

Ensuring universal access to health care, family planning, clean water and sanitation;

Ensuring universal access to sound and affordable housing, encouraging use of local materials;

Supporting families and informal community services.

3. Alleviation and reduction of poverty among women

Combating the feminization of poverty;

Ensuring that women have equal access to social services, particularly education and training, health, family planning and child care;

Ensuring women's equitable access to credit and other productive inputs.

4. Alleviating and reducing rural poverty

Land reform and redistribution;

Improving rural transport, water supplies and other infrastructure;

Improving availability of credit and agricultural inputs;

Improving rural markets;

Promoting food security at affordable prices through agricultural development;

Promoting non-agricultural production in rural areas, particularly through encouragement of entrepreneurship, small businesses and labour-intensive industry.

5. Reducing poverty in fragile ecosystems

Promoting sustainable development;

Increasing research on sustainable production techniques;

Employing people in conservation programmes.

6. Reducing urban poverty in developing countries

Improving conditions in the informal sector and for the working poor;

Promoting labour-intensive industry;

Improving public health, sanitation and shelter for the urban poor;

Improving conditions in spontaneous settlements;

Encouraging and supporting community self-help activities.

7. Strengthening social security policies and programmes

Developing alternatives to traditional welfare;

Improving conditions for the working poor;

Assisting single parents and their children;

Protecting children from abuse and exploitation;

Protecting the elderly, the disabled and other vulnerable groups;

Reintegrating drug addicts, alcoholics, delinquents, street children and others excluded from society.

8. Monitoring poverty and assessing anti-poverty programmes

Establishing practical indicators of poverty, particularly for the poorest of the poor;

Establishing indicators for food, education, health, housing and other basic needs;

Improving monitoring mechanisms at the local, national and international levels;

Improving the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information.

9. Reducing poverty and rebuilding social structures in war-torn societies

Rebuilding social structures and institutions;

Rebuilding solidarity through education and culture.